

**COLLINS STEWART GROUP STRENGTHENS EQUITY RESEARCH TEAM
WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF IMRAN AKRAM AND AARON GUY**

London, 16 July 2008: Collins Stewart, a leading independent investment bank, is pleased to announce the strengthening of its equity research team with the appointment of two senior analysts. Imran Akram will lead Collins Stewart's coverage of the Construction Materials, House Building and Real Estate sectors and he is joined by Real Estate analyst, Aaron Guy.

Imran previously spent ten years at Deutsche Bank where he was the lead European Construction Materials analyst. Prior to that, he was a chartered accountant at Deloitte and Touche.

Aaron joins from Bear Stearns where he was their European Real Estate Analyst developing its European listed real estate research product, including research coverage, marketing and the development of new research tools. Aaron previously worked at AME Capital Ltd.

The new appointments demonstrate Collins Stewart's commitment to strengthening its research capabilities across the Group, including the recent expansion of the US research team's coverage in the renewable energy, oil and gas, media, Internet and biotechnology sectors.

John Abularrage, Head of Equities at Collins Stewart said:

"We are thrilled to welcome both Imran and Aaron to Collins Stewart. Their expertise will significantly strengthen our equity research team and coverage of the construction materials, house building and real estate sectors, enabling us to provide an enhanced product offering to our clients."

- ends -

For further information please contact:

*M:Communications
Charlotte Kirkham*

+44 (0)207 153 1531 or +44 (0)7989 528421

About Collins Stewart plc

Collins Stewart plc is a leading independent investment banking group with offices in 11 geographies worldwide including; London, New York, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Dublin, Paris, Geneva, Singapore, Tel Aviv, and Mumbai.



With over 700 employees, the Group is organised around four operational divisions; advisory, capital markets, securities and wealth management. All are serviced by Collins Stewart's unique research tool, Quest™.

Collins Stewart is the top fundraiser on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM), raising £1.3 billion in 2007. The Group's Wealth Management division manages and advises in excess of £4 billion of assets and is the largest investment manager and stockbroker in the Channel Islands. Through its advisory division, Collins Stewart is one of the leading independent corporate finance firms in Europe.

www.collinsstewart.com

The above description of Collins Stewart is communicated by Collins Stewart Europe Limited, a company authorised and regulated in the UK by the Financial Services Authority, which has its principal place of business at 25 the North Colonnade, London, E14 5HS